

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A baked cookie having a dual texture and an average moisture level of about 6.5 to 10 weight percent water moisture after baking, which cookie maintains its dual texture and average moisture level for at least about 2 to 8 hours after baking and during warming for display to a plurality of consumers.
- 10 2. The cookie of claim 1, wherein the dual texture comprises a central portion and an outer portion arranged about the central portion.
3. The cookie of claim 2, wherein the outer portion has a lower moisture content than the central portion.
- 15 4. The cookie of claim 3, wherein the central portion has a moisture gradient of at least about 8 percent water content and the outer portion has a moisture gradient of below about 7 percent water content.
- 20 5. The cookie of claim 3, wherein the moisture gradient is at least about 7.5 percent water content in the central portion and below about 4 percent water content in the outer portion at least about 6 hours after baking.
6. The cookie of claim 2, wherein the central portion represents the innermost
25 33 to 66% of the area or volume of the baked cookie while the outer portion represents the outermost 17 to 33% of the area or volume of the baked cookie.
7. The cookie of claim 2, wherein the central portion has a width of at least about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch at the center of the cookie and the outer portion is a band having a width of at
30 least about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch adjacent the edge of the cookie and disposed about the central portion.
8. The cookie of claim 2, wherein the central portion is a width of about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch and the outer portion is a band having a diameter of about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

9. The cookie of claim 1, in the form of a substantially round cookie of about 3 to 5 inches in diameter.